

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"*O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolas.*" . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURE.

Brunswick, (Va.) April 6th, 1820.

MR. SKINNER,

SIR,—Enclosed you will receive an address delivered before the Agricultural Society of Brunswick County in special meeting, the 4th of March, 1820, by EDWARD B. HICKS one of its members: and which, by a resolution of said Society, I am directed to transmit to you for publication in the American Farmer.

Our laws are now under revision, and as soon as they are perfected, I will forward them also, for the same purpose.

I remain very respectfully yours, &c.

THOMAS W. JONES, Secretary.

ADDRESS.

"In ancient times, the sacred plough employ'd
"The Kings and awful fathers of mankind:
"And some, to whom compar'd your insect tribes
"Are but the beings of a summer's day,
"Have held the scale of empire, rul'd the storm
"Of mighty war; then, with unweary'd hand,
"Disdaining little delicacies, seized
"The plough, and greatly independent liv'd."

THOMSON'S SPRING.

MR. PRESIDENT,—

Amongst the various pursuits to which the attention of the human race has been called, there can be none so well calculated to call forth the energies of our nature; to make us cherish and perpetuate a filial love for our country;—to promote happiness, and ensure longevity:—and to show unto man his entire dependence on the bounty of a merciful and munificent Providence, than AGRICULTURE. It is that occupation to which the God of Nature seems to have assigned us, when he decreed that man should live by the sweat of his brow. And whilst it contributes so powerfully to promote our individual and national happiness, it is at the same time the barometer by which we may estimate the degree of civilization and refinement to which a nation has attained.

The feeblest and most degraded state in which a nation can be viewed, is, when we find it in pristine ignorance and barbarism;—its people "joint tenants of the forest" with the beasts;—and contending with doubtful success for the supremacy of the wild and uncultivated domain. Such a people being divided and independent of each other, having no laws nor superiors to control them, soon find from their savage life and pursuits that their insulated station is a source of continual warfare and infelicity; their numerous wants and fears point out the necessity of concents and combinations; and show to them that each man's own powers are feeble to protect him against superior strength and superior cunning. And hence individuals feel the necessity of a closer alliance with their fellow men, until they find themselves the members of a clan, or a tribe. From the nature of human beings, and as it would seem, from an ordinance of God himself—mankind are inherently disposed to associate together: and in the rude and imperfect alliances, we may see civil society in embryo;—the small and tender germs of future political compacts and civilized nations.

But, although a people may have subdued the beasts with which they had to contend;—elected or acknowledged a chief;—and secured the persons and property

of the weak, from the violence of the strong, yet if they do not abandon their hunting and roving pursuits, they must remain barbarous and savage, still.—The perils and toils of the chase must be encountered to satisfy the voraciousness of hunger. And their pursuits seem to beget a contempt for agricultural labours. Nor does man feel any of those sweets of home—those domestic endearments, nor love of country until he has a local habitation, and looks to the products of the earth for sustenance. The field which gives him food when the spoils of the chase cannot be procured; the cabin which shelters him from the "pelting of the pitiless storm," must impart to his heart some affection for the spot where they are located.

Nor are the hordes of pastoral fugitives who march from valley to valley, and from mountain to mountain, objects of our envy or imitation. They may feel all the endearments and sympathies for their families and clan which mankind will feel in a more civilized and refined state; but the *love of country* makes up no part of their affections. Their flocks and their chiefs are the only objects of their solicitude and love. Place a man in any situation in which he does not feel an immediate interest in the products of the earth, and his love of country will be found weak and small. In this country we are all more or less familiar with Indian manners and notions. Did any one ever hear of an Indian who spoke with rapture and affection of a mountain, or a plain? But, on the contrary, how often have we heard them, in strains of panegyric and adulation, hyperbolical indeed, speak of their chiefs; their wars; their hunting, amusements and labours; and their rivers from which they take their food?

Look at the Tartar tribes, which at present infest the Asiatic continent; whether we find them a corps of organized Cossacks, fighting the battles of Europe according to the tactics and police of modern warfare; or a company of banditti, robbing and murdering a caravan in the desert; we shall see but few of those qualities amongst them which spring from, and reside exclusively among the humble cultivators of the ground. Devastation is their pastime, and carnage the aliment of their lives. The Caledonians, of whom Ossian sings with such exquisite rapture and harmony, were remarkable only for their intrepidity in the field, and devotion to their chiefs. All the milder and salutary virtues of humanity were held by them, as by all other semi-barbarians, in the greatest contempt; and few amongst them could be found, that would not exclaim with Calmar, "O ye dark winds of Erin rise! roar ye whirlwinds of the heath! amid the tempest let me die, torn in a cloud of angry ghosts of men; amid the tempest let Calmar die, if ever chase was sport to him, so much as the battle of Shields!—the splendour of military renown, was the object of their hopes; and the boisterous vocations of the camp were the only labour to which their haughty feelings would submit.

Feelings and pursuits so incompatible with the well-being, and ultimate prosperity of a nation; and so destructive of the quiet and happiness of their neighbours, could only exist amongst a people as destitute of all knowledge of good government, as of agriculture.

But when precepts of order and good government are inculcated;—when the blessings and duties of rural life are properly appreciated, and well understood, man becomes a new and renovated being. All the turbulent passions of the heart are silenced:—many of his prejudices are corrected;—all impatience and restlessness of feeling is allayed;—and he feels so much attachment for his own home and country, that he looks upon others, as objects of little or no desire.—As a husband, and brother and father he is affectionate and provident;—and receiving from heaven so many benefits and blessings, it admonishes him to be kind and liberal to all around him, whether rational or irrational. Husbandry

having the power to mould mankind into that form, in which we are taught to believe they are most acceptable to the great author of their being, must be the occupation which it is their interest, both temporal and eternal, to pursue.

Many are the joys and delights of the humble farmer which disdain to bless the spoiled child of wealth and luxury, or the ambitious tyrannic sons of the sword. He feels pleasure in the company of plants; and the gay luxuriance of cultivated nature;—the rich foliage of the trees; the treasures of yellow autumn; and the gambols of the flocks, are sources of enjoyment to him as exhaustless, as the riches of God himself. It were impossible that one, having the taste to enjoy, and the industry to improve these advantages, can ever be deprived of that cheerfulness of temper, which gives a zest to life; can fail to be a good citizen or subject; or wander from those principles of rectitude, "which bind the moral elements of the world together."

When we reflect upon the entire dependence of every other profession, trade or employment, on agriculture, we are struck with its importance, and feel as though we were criminal in not having bestowed more of our attention on it; or given its votaries more of our esteem. The custom in China of the imperial hands holding and directing the plough, once a year, is a wise one, and is well calculated to give the employment a dignity and credit, of which, I am sorry to say, it stands in so much need in this country. It is not the myriads of soldiers—the full exchequer—the brilliant and sumptuous court—or the number of its artisans which lifts a nation to importance and standing amongst the powers of the earth—or which secures to its inhabitants happiness and plenty. But it is to the industry of its people, and to the fruits of the earth to which we are to look for individual felicity and national prosperity. Before the discovery of America, Spain had agriculture—and with it commerce and power, and high standing amongst her neighbours. Under Ferdinand and Isabella, Castile and Arragon were powerful and prosperous states—and Spain under their son, Charles V. was one of the first nations of Europe. But since the mines of the New World have turned its people to digging for gold instead of bread, though millions are annually coined in her mint, she is without commerce and strength, and knowledge—enjoying the distinction of being the most insignificant kingdom in the world, possessing a population of starved peasants and swindling friars. All are dependent on agriculture—even the lordlings of Spanish mines must give their gold for the necessities of life. These are solid substantial resources which will never fail whilst mankind understand their own interest, and God keeps up the economy of the seas.

These remarks apply indiscriminately to all nations, states and kingdoms; but I believe there is no country in the world where the improvement and love of husbandry so well comports with the wealth and happiness of its people—with the prosperity and interest of the country—and with the public morals, as the U. States of America. Being all equally free—unambitious of those things which constitute the pride and wishes of people in other countries—we are, or ought to be, a nation of farmers, improving the numberless advantages with which we are so liberally supplied. But it grieves me to say that to this subject we have not, in many parts of the state, given the least attention—viewing it, as many of us do, as too degrading and low for our refined minds, and delicate hands.

This, gentlemen, brings me to our own country, and to the objects of our meeting and society—to the affairs and condition of "Good Old Virginia." We

* Of GERMANY.

have organized ourselves into this society for the purpose of improving our lands, and promoting rural economy. We see our farms impoverished and sterile by the injudicious culture of our ancestors, and our state losing some of her most hopeful sons by emigration. Let us then endeavour, like affectionate and dutiful children to increase her resources by enriching her soil, and to decorate her with all the beauties of "smiling nature's universal robe." We all have the honour of being natives of the "Ancient Dominion," and is there one amongst us who does not feel a pride and pleasure in being numbered amongst her sons? Who does not feel the most lively solicitude in her destinies—and delight in improving her soil, and in multiplying her honours; I dare believe that there is not one in this society, or scarcely in this state, who does not love the soil of "Ould Virginia," with a good and holy affection—who would not spill his blood in her defence, and devote his time and talents to her welfare and aggrandizement.

In what can we testify our love of our country, or our readiness to improve and multiply its resources; and at the same time improve our own fortunes, more than in raising agriculture from the degradation and neglect in which it has so long languished? Politicians may scheme and theorize—demagogues may bustle and supplant each other—and philanthropists may speculate and sigh for the public good—but it is the men who increase the productiveness of the earth and "scatter plenty o'er a smiling land," who are the real benefactors of their country—who are to give it the means of happiness and plenty in peace, and who are its "main stay, its last resort in war." And if our association shall be the means of reclaiming from hopeless sterility the fields, which in every direction, salute our sight with appalling indications of poverty, and present us with dismal prospects of future desolation and unproductiveness, I humbly think, that we ought to be held, and thought to be better citizens, than the grog inspired patriots, who howl with such vociferation, and preach with such clamor, about the public prosperity. To rear a beautiful and luxuriant wheat field from the soil, which for years had grown nothing but the worthless broom-straw, is an achievement more honourable and beneficial than the petty triumphs of faction. To improve a patrimonial estate, every object about which ought to lay hold of the affections, is much more becoming the young man who succeeds to it, than to sell it, and retire to the forest of the west.

It is a prevailing opinion in Virginia, as destructive of improvement as it is fallacious, that the soil and resources of the state, are in a rapid course of deterioration; that the grand children of the present generation, if they remain here, will not be able to raise the necessities of life. Nothing can contribute so powerfully to inculcate such opinions, as that ignorance of agriculture which it is our purpose to remove.—When persons possessing these opinions become acquainted with the results of judicious cultivation they will be as much astonished at the abundance of its products, as they are at present unwilling to rely on their native soil for future sustenance. Although gullies may yawn, and old fields present themselves in every direction, yet the soil is possessed of an inherent quality, which, if strengthened and protected, will restore itself to its pristine vigour and fertility. Nor are the means of restoration and resuscitation foreign or hard to be obtained: its own herbage, and protection from animals, with judicious ploughing, are the chief means necessary to be employed in this beneficial work.

But as easy as it certainly is, to improve and restore our land to its wonted value, there is one thing to be overcome, which has hitherto damped the ardour of enterprise and deterred numbers from becoming votaries of husbandry. I mean the contempt with which the employment has been viewed. Before we can rationally expect to render this occupation acceptable to our fellow citizens it will be necessary to reform the public opinion upon the subject. It were as vain for any individual or association to attempt to increase the number of farmers before the employment be properly seasoned to the public taste, as it would

be to legislate against universal feeling and opinion. Before mankind will enter into any employment or enterprise with alacrity, their pride must be reconciled to it, and their judgment must be convinced of its utility: Heretofore, the farmers have been placed at the very bottom of the gradations of rank, for we have rank in Virginia, as they have it every where else.—I have been frequently mortified at the confusion and embarrassment under which honest respectable farmers were placed by the giddy and forward spark of indolence and poverty. The little pert frilled-bosomed fopling of the counter and yard-stick, never fails to turn up his nose at rustic simplicity. No man will willingly betake himself to a calling in which he is to be disgraced.

The first thing then to be done in the promotion of our desirable object is, to lift rural occupations from the humble and discreditable station to which a false pride has reduced them. Amongst men of liberal notions and cultivated understandings, agriculture has always been respected and respectable; but it is incumbent on its friends to make all think so, and yield to it that deference and consideration to which its importance and utility so justly entitle it. A contagion of feeling and pursuit frequently pervades whole communities, and leads to the most salutary, and sometimes, the most fatal results; is it not possible to stir up something of that sort for the encouragement and relief of agriculture? In a word, can it not be made fashionable? Nothing is wanting but to assert its territories. The introduction of the plough, of horse rights, and to place it in the hands of the most respectable of our fellow-citizens. If it be patronized by respectability and talents, it will soon ascend to that eminence to which every friend of his country must wish to see it exalted.

And whilst in other parts of the commonwealth we see the most distinguished of our fellow-citizens associating themselves together, and devoting their valuable time to this subject, these may be considered as three feet behind the second and other drills. In the infallible indications of a spirit of improvement and inquiry, and ought to stimulate us all to exertions in the same great cause. The citizens of Brunswick have, upon all occasions, been emulous in those things year. At the end of the third year, we shall have used the field three years, in three several drills, distant from each other one foot and one half. Thus we shall always use fresh soil, and so proceeding, the land of every drill will have lain fallow two whole years, and have been cultivated but once in three years. The plough, the harrow, the horse hoe, (all labour-saving machines applied in culture,) will have been used. The horse hoe is particularly recommended to the examination, consideration, and trial of the cotton planters.

The enthusiastic and volatile spirits which are attracted by the novelties of the day—the ambitious and bustling characters who mix with, and join popular associations, merely to be heard and seen—and the desponding irresolute drones of timidity, with whom all enterprises are impossible, may diminish our numbers by desertion, and injure our cause by supineness, because success may not crown the first effort towards improvement. Ridicule may laugh, contempt may frown, and slander may snarl at us, but I trust that there will be enough amongst us, so well convinced of the importance of the objects in view—of the impossibility of immediate success—and of our own, and our country's interest, as to keep up the zeal of reformers, and the dignity and liberality of patrons. He who expects to see the whole country enriched by magic—without a systematic and long course of improvement, will be as much disappointed in his expectations, as he is certainly ignorant of the process and labour of improvement. Providence seems to have set a high price upon all valuable objects, which tend to gratify our wants, and to administer to our pleasures—so in the improvement of our land nothing but the most persevering labour and consummate skill can effect it.

Knowing the futility of hopes of immediate improvement—viewing the enterprise as arduous and difficult—and seeing in prospective the great advantages resulting from improved husbandry, let us meet our labours with calmness and resolution—let us prepare ourselves for disappointments—and let us humbly hope for ultimate success—for success rarely fails to reward the labours of diligence, and to smile upon

unyielding resolution. Though we may not attain success in the grand purposes of our association, we shall not fail to shed some light upon subjects now little understood, and to work some collateral advantages that may hereafter stimulate inquiry, and arouse and invigorate exertion. We may not wholly demolish the towering citadel of ignorance—nor do we expect it—but our bodies may fill up the ditches and trenches, and afford a passage to its walls to the next platoon of besiegers.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON THE CULTIVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT OF

COTTON.—No. 3.

The culture of cotton produced our most valuable object of exportation to foreign countries, even in the two last years, and in the lowest state of our markets, at home and abroad. It is a very healthy culture, easy, and not fatiguing or laborious. Our whole crop, at a medium of two or three successive years, cannot be considered as more than 120,000,000 of pounds, and it is produced, at 120 weight of clean cotton per acre, by one million of acres; a very small portion of which lands of any one of the cotton growing states or territories. The introduction of the plough, of horse rights, and to place it in the hands of the most respectable of our fellow-citizens. If it be patronized by respectability and talents, it will soon ascend to that dancy of soil, have given us immense advantages.—By the practice of drills, set wide apart, we may cultivate the same field three times without exhausting it, running the drills first at four and one half feet distance. In the second year, we may cultivate, by drills one foot and one half before each of the first drills, and of course and one half before each of the second and other drills. In the third year we may cut our drills one foot and one half inquiry, and ought to stimulate us all to exertions in before the drills of the second year, and one foot and the same great cause. The citizens of Brunswick have, upon all occasions, been emulous in those things year. At the end of the third year, we shall have used the field three years, in three several drills, distant from each other one foot and one half. Thus we shall always use fresh soil, and so proceeding, the land of every drill will have lain fallow two whole years, and have been cultivated but once in three years. The plough, the harrow, the horse hoe, (all labour-saving machines applied in culture,) will have been used. The horse hoe is particularly recommended to the examination, consideration, and trial of the cotton planters.

The cultivators of many other principal productions of the United States, have the deepest interest in the effectual support of cotton planting. The reasons are strong, and weighty. So far as a portion of our population and soil are actually and successfully employed in producing cotton, they are prevented from producing the bread grains, swine, sheep, and cattle, tobacco, indigo, and sugar, are the more favourable to those who raise them. Another consideration in favour of the culture of cotton is, that it is aided in its production, in its cleaning and preparation for market, and in its manufacture, in the bread grains, meat, tobacco, rice, indigo, and sugar, are the more favourable to those who raise them. Another consideration in favour of the culture of cotton is, that it is aided in its production, in its cleaning and preparation for market, and in its manufacture, in a much greater degree by labour-saving machinery, than any other production of the soil, or any other raw material. This will appear by specifying our productions, which are not and which are, raw materials. These are meat cattle, working cattle, hides, skins, lard, tallow, butter, cheese, oils, the bread grains, rice, tobacco, flax, hemp, silk, wool, wood, iron, and lead. A third and important reason, of weight with the whole union, in favour of the culture of cotton is, that its manufacture employs a great number of people, who constantly demand for their support all our eatable produce, and all the drinks made of them, coal fuel, wood fuel, lumber, and timber, bricks, stone, iron, forage and working cattle, mill seats, town grounds, milk, butter, cheese, &c. &c.

Cotton is susceptible of use in the finest and most delicate female apparel, and in every thing from that

kind of goods to negro clothing: in cotton blankets, bought for five or six pence sterling, while cotton was swanskins, thicksets, and corduroys for winter, and worth 30, 24, and 20 pence sterling. These heavy jeans, dimities, and cambrick muslins for summer, having become a universal substitute for linen and try, which should ever be attentive to the creation of flaxen goods, for many woollens and silks, and even for leather, there can be no doubt that "the cotton bales of United America," are far more important to us than the much talked of woolsacks of England. The long wool of England, of which they produce annually 33 millions of pounds, is worth but 8½ to 9d. sterling, being less than 17 cents, which is below the medium price of all our cottons, at our seaports, even after all its reductions. But the United Kingdom, distressed for land, does not produce as much of sheep's wool, as we produce of cotton; and our power of produce is not used to the extent of one five hundredth part. The British capacity to produce wool is exhausted and even strained to the point of severe distress, expulsion of poor tenants from farms, and expatriation of great numbers of people; while our redundant cotton lands court the hands of the cultivators, and all the labour-saving powers of mechanism, science, ingenuity, and dexterity in the culture, preparation, and manufacture of their wonderful production.

The oil of the cotton seed, managed and expressed in the manner of flax seed oil; or extracted by excessive hot water, on the surface of which it will rise for skimming, appears to be an object worthy of greater consideration than it has received. It will only be observed, that in order to secure the seed necessary to replace injured crops, it is advised, that cotton seed never be used to manufacture oil until the possibility of planting, in the current season, be entirely passed.

The feeding of cattle with cotton seed, and even of the best milch cows, has been tried with perfect and steady success. It has been said, that the fibres of the cotton, which remain on the seed, and particularly on the green seed, choak or incommod the cattle and swine, which use them. But various devices may be used to get rid of those fibres. By drying the seed in the sun, so that no moisture would remain in the fibres, they might be stirred in a large iron or earthen vessel, quickly; rapidly; with a red-hot or hot iron, which would destroy all the dry cotton fibres, and reduce them to a powder or ashes easily blown away with a corn fan, or separated by a sieve. In the manufacture of many cotton goods, they take off the long pile, in finishing them, by dextrously and rapidly passing a red-hot iron roller over their surface. This practice has been successfully used during the last 35 or 40 years, in Lancashire and Normandy. The burning of well dried and opened cotton wool is similar to an explosion. In this modern ingenious time, every given difficulty is soon and effectually obviated.

The cotton blanket, best made and manufactured in the south of France, is worthy of the particular attention of the American cotton planters, and of their friends, as well as of the manufacturers of cotton wool at home and abroad.

They are made in the twilled manner, and the filling is much best of short stapled cotton, because in finishing blankets, both of wool and cotton, the pile, or coat or nap is raised with a wire card. If the staple is too long, the pile is difficult to get up without injuring the texture of the web. Goods, called in France *melletons* or twilled swanskins, are made of cotton. Canton flannels are made in China, also twilled, of cotton for linings. In England, at a place called Kendal, a woollen imitation of the African negro cloth of cotton, has been made. It has been thence called *Kendal cotton*, though made of wool. The reason was that the coarse part of the cheap wool was

* Of the Lincolnshire, Romney, Teeswater, and other long woolled heavy fleeced sheep, called the Lincolnshire breed. It is however believed, that their large carcasses and heavy coarse fleeces are produced by feeding, on strong marsh meadow grasses, instead of the light growths of the English South Downs, and the arid pastures of old Spain.

† This article of proper breadth, and with a purple or blue dyed border, is extensively made in France for petticoat stuff, in lieu of linsey woolsey, much used in our northern, middle, and western states, which attend to sheep and flax.

goods required much common cotton, and suit our country, which should ever be attentive to the creation of a sinking fund for our great and increasing cotton crops. Purchasers at home and purchasers abroad, are all indispensably necessary to the important cultivation of the various kinds and qualities of cotton wool.

The cotton of the United States, is all yet planted annually. But it is possible that the perennial cotton plant may be cultivated in the most southern parts of East Florida, or, if we should not cede it, in the part of Louisiana, between the Rio Bravo del Norte and the Gulf of Mexico.

The condition in which this article of our produce is found in the various markets abroad, is of the greatest importance to its sale, its character, its price, its quickness in the market, its preference to other cottons, and to the honour and reputation of our planters, our merchants, and our country. It is therefore recommended to every individual and to all public bodies, to pay, or cause to be paid, the utmost attention to the exclusion of unsound and dirty cotton, to the freeing it from seeds, whole and broken, and from chips and trash of every kind, and to every circumstance which can render it unexceptionable and acceptable. The standing of the South Carolina rice, and of all our rice that is equally well and fairly handled in the United States, and of the Philadelphia superfine flour, are strong proofs of the benefits arising from the best and fairest preparation and inspections, as to quality, condition, and weight.

It is understood, that the black cotton seed, procured from the places on the sea coasts, sea islands, and in foreign countries where it best succeeds, amply rewards the expense and trouble of procuring it, though it probably degenerates in a few seasons, like the white wheat of the south, which after three years becomes hard and red, and unfit for the manufacture of the first quality of superfine flour.

COLUMBIANUS.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Agricultural Society

OF ALBEMARLE, (VIRG.)

No. 3.

ACCOUNT OF A COMB FOR GATHERING CLOVER SEED.

Read, May 8, 1820.

I present for the inspection of the Society, a simple implement for gathering clover seed, which I used last summer with great advantage and success.—It combines no new principle in the construction, different from several others in common use; nor is it of recent invention, for I remember to have seen one similar to it twenty years ago; the recollection of which induced me to have some made last summer, when from the excessive drought which prevailed, our clover did not get high enough to cut. It is recommended for the simplicity of its construction, and cheapness, (the entire cost not being more than 75 cents,) the ease with which it is worked, and the astonishing expedition and success which attends its use. A neighbour of mine, and a member of this society (now present) gathered last summer, with one exactly similar to the present model, 100 bushels in a day, commencing after the dew was off. But here it should be mentioned, that the clover stood very thick and erect, and the heads were perfectly full and in fine order for pulling. A few days succeeding, after a hea-

vy rain which beat off a great deal of the seed and tangled the clover, in the same field and with the same machine I could not gather more than 60 bushels. The man who uses it, should go regularly through the field in rows, as he would in mowing, and he will carry about as wide a row as he would with a scythe. In making from six to twelve strokes, he will get so much as to require the comb to be emptied. A small boy with a large hamper or open basket, should attend his steps for this purpose, and the boy can wait upon two gatherers. As the hampers get full they should be emptied into a cart, which must attend to remove the seed to the place of keeping.

I have seen a machine upon this principle, fixed upon low wheels, and drawn by a horse, a cut and description of which is given in the American Farmer, volume 1, page 253. The objections to the horse rake are, that the horse beats down a quantity of the seed, and if stumps or stones intervene, you must deviate from a straight course, thereby missing a great many heads, and the operation of emptying the box is tedious, and attended with waste. A gentleman who used the horse rake, saw my Hand-Combs (as I call them) at work, and gave them a decided preference, both for expedition and effectual performance. The combs will work around a stump or stone, as easily and as effectually as a grass scythe; and although they strip the heads perfectly clean, yet a sufficiency of seed falls to the ground in the operation to renew the crop of clover if the ground is intended for a fallow.

P. MINOR.

I subjoin the dimensions of the comb, which, however, are not ascertained to be the best, as they were taken at random:—

Whole length of the comb, - - 26 inches.

Do. width do. - - - 17 do.

Length of the teeth, - - - 11 do.

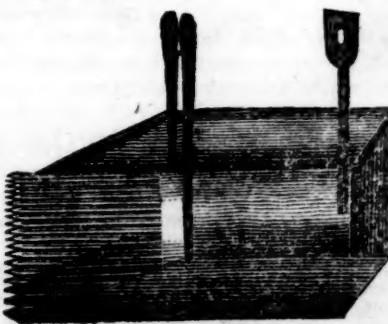
There are eighteen in number, formed by passing a coarse handsaw through the bottom plank, in straight lines, three-fourths of an inch apart—the ends of the teeth pointed with a sharp knife, and made more open on the under side, with a small chisel or gouge.

Height of the handles, - - - - 20 in.

Depth of the box around the comb to contain the seed - - - - - 5 in.

The bottom piece is three-fourths of an inch thick; and the pieces forming the box, are half an inch thick and all of light pine timber. I find the opening between the teeth wears and becomes much larger by use. Perhaps oak plank would wear less, but might make the machine too heavy.

P. M.



After the engraving was finished, and the fore-going in type, a letter was received from Mr. Minor, from which we make the following extract.

"The handles of the machine for gathering clover seed, should all be perpendicular to the side pieces of the box, and serve to strengthen those pieces by being nailed to them. The two front handles are connected together by a *convex* piece of wood, which plays loosely, but in the drawing it is represented as a cord, and has a *concave* appearance. If you have it engraved, pray correct this. Perhaps a kind of hoop made of flexible white oak, and nailed in part to the bottom and sides, would answer as well, or better than the front handles I have given."

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

To destroy Fly in Turnips.

Rockhall, 5th June, 1820.

DEAR SIR.—Observing in your last paper, that as the season for turnip seeding is near at hand, induced you to treat more largely on the subject of their culture, I beg leave to suggest to you a specific against the fly or little black flea, which are so destructive to young plants in warm and dry weather, provided you have not had this information before, which is simply, to steep the seed in train or fish oil and sulphur, for fifteen or twenty hours before seeding, the oil may then be strained off and the seed rolled in plaster or ashes—the oil assists the vegetation of the seed and impregnates the plant so strongly that no fly will trouble it till it is well leaved out. This antidote I have used for several years past with all the small seeds I sow, also vine seeds, and found it never to fail; it would be well for the tobacco planters to adopt this method with their seed. I wish some of your experienced correspondents could give the public as sure an antidote against the green web worm, which was so destructive to turnips and cabbages last year. I lost two crops of the Ruta Baga by those worms, after the leaf had grown to the size of a dollar.

I remain your respectful
humble servant,
THOMAS HARRIS.

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON THE RAISING OF SILK IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

Annapolis, June 9th, 1820.

The piece which appeared in your last number, page 87, respecting the *morus nigra* or common mulberry, and the silk worm, has induced me to have transcribed and send you an extract from the second edition of a work, printed in London in the year 1768, entitled "The Wonders of Nature and Art," &c.

This extract contains facts which ought not to be forgotten, and as the work itself is seldom to be found, at this time, I trust you will insert it with a view to preserve it from oblivion. This work is in my collection, and as it contains a number of old experiments made by the Anglo-Americans, I may at some future time and leisure, furnish you with them, or a perusal of the work.

Yours, &c.

EXTRACT.

"The colony of Georgia, which began to be settled in the year 1733, has not indeed answered the expectations of the public; but no branch seems so likely to succeed and bring wealth to that colony, as well as to this nation, as that of silk, the soil being extremely proper for the culture of the mulberry tree, and the climate no less agreeable to the silk worm. As a proof of this we need only observe, that in the year 1739, M. Augspourger, a Swiss, brought over a parcel of raw silk from Georgia, and deposited before a master in Chancery, that he received it from Mr. Thomas Jones, storekeeper to the trustees for establishing that colony, who told him it was the produce of Georgia. This being shewn at the trustees office to one of the greatest silk weavers in England, and to an eminent raw silk merchant, they declared it was as fine as any Indian silk, and worth at least twenty shillings a pound. Several other parcels of fine silk have been since brought from thence; but its produce in this article has hitherto borne no proportion to the demand for it. There is likewise great reason to believe, that very good wines might in time be made of the grapes in this colony, and the same may be said of several of the British settlements in America. The coat of the natural grape indeed is not strong enough to contain the juice, so that when it is ripe, it bursts; and the frost about the vernal equinox often kills the vines, when they are shooting; and as for European vines, many are destroyed by the insects of the country. Experience however has shewn, that my grafting the European on the wild vine, all those inconveniences are in a good measure prevented: for then it shoots later, and so escapes the frost better, the skin of the grape becomes thicker and stronger, and the insects do less prejudice. Some vines brought from Portugal and Madeira have thriven very well, even in the most barren parts of the province; and, in short, nothing seems wanting but a sufficient number of inhabitants, to render Georgia a profitable and delightful colony."

Wonders of Nature and Art, Vol. 6. p. 145.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

The health of the Planter and Farmers, and of their families.

The blessings of health are equally necessary to profit and to comfort. It often depends upon reasonable attention to the mere dictates of plain common sense.

The autumnal diseases of the agueish and febrile character, form the chief and first class of country disorders; tertian, putrid, and bilious fevers. The confirmed tertian, repeated in the spring, becomes the difficult and tedious quartan. Nothing contributes so much to produce these disorders, as the situation of the family dwelling and out houses of the planter and farmer. Whenever these buildings are placed on the northern or eastern side of any fresh water, particularly of a dull, sluggish or stagnant water, they are subject to the reception of the evening damps, vapours and fogs, blown from such water into the houses, by the prevailing south west summer winds, where they produce *sore disease*. And in the morning, the fogs, damps and vapours, that rise upon these waters and upon wet and watery places, are fanned by the southern and western winds over to the eastern and northern sides, or are drawn from such watery and moist places by the rarification of the air, by the north eastern rising sun, over to the north and east, and produce the same morbid ill effects. Under such circumstances *third day agues* and fevers, and other autumnal complaints among men, women and children are certain and unavoidable. Two rules therefore are strongly recommended to all

planters farmers, millers, and persons in general in country life. First, that they *never* build their dwellings, works, barns, or other out houses, where their people live or are employed, on the northern or eastern side of any stream, marsh, mill dam, pond, swamp, or other watery, wet or moist place; and secondly, that they *always* build their dwellings, mills, barns, &c. on the south and west sides of such waters, wet and watery places, particularly stagnant pools, ponds, mill dams, marshes, swamps, ditched meadows, &c. &c. Every physician will confirm this simple advice. *Holland*, and the vicinities of the Lincolnshire, Romney and Teeswater; marshes in England, are as famous for autumnal complaints, though farther north than our most northeastern seaports. Even barn yards, tan yards, stercoraries, and other things producing miasma, vapour, smells, &c. should be placed to the northward and eastward of our dwellings, and places of labour and employment. These suggestions are of the deepest consequence to the sound, vigorous and comfortable industry of our whole population, and most so to our tender wives and children.

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FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

MR. EDITOR,—In a late article on the subject of tares, copied from your useful paper into the daily prints of the city, it would appear from the number of notes of exclamation affixed, that something like censure is aimed at those in this state, who were the cause of the inequality between this and other places in the union; and persuaded that your sole aim is the dissemination of truth and useful information, I have taken the liberty to send you the following statement of facts. I take it for granted, that the tare on New Orleans sugar alone, is alluded to in the article above-mentioned; because sugars from the West Indies are still received at the old tare of twelve pound, on the hundred and twelve pound. It is but a few years since, sugars from New Orleans first made their appearance in the Baltimore market, and they were then received at the same tare as sugars from the West Indies; but it was soon discovered, that a heavy loss was sustained by the purchasers, from the fraudulent manner in which the hogsheads were made.—The heading was composed of shapeless masses of heavy pitch pine, flat on the out side and inclining to a round log within—the staves of unusual thickness, with several huge canes, unnecessarily crammed into each cask; such palpable impositions led to the practice of weighing each hogshead after the sugar was taken out, and records were made of the loss sustained. A meeting of the Grocers was publicly called, and a conclusive mass of evidence was produced from every quarter of the city, which satisfied the meeting that something ought to be done, but it was suggested that as the season was then far advanced, it would be advisable to postpone to the next year the contemplated alteration. This was agreed to, with a view to afford the planters of Louisiana an opportunity of correcting the abuse; but it was found in the ensuing year, that with a few honourable exceptions, it was persisted in. It then became necessary to call another meeting, when the tare was fixed at fifteen pound on the 112 lb. at which it has

remained ever since. The other cities of the union have hitherto abstained for reasons best known to themselves, from discriminating between the tare on New Orleans and West Indies sugar, except New York, where a meeting was lately held, which threatens to increase the tare next season, if the abuse is not abandoned.—But so long as the matter is left to the discretion of individuals, we may calculate on its being persisted in. An inspection law similar to what we have on the subject of flour, whiskey, and fish, would secure the honest planter against the odium and the loss brought on him by the fraudulent—and would soon cause all the regulations which have been entered into here from motives of self-defence to be rescinded.

The sugars from one plantation, which arrived here this season, lost on an average 30 lbs. per hogshead at 15 per cent. tare; the facts and circumstances together with the owner's name, will be made public in due time.

A petty retailer, who would send home to a purchaser a barrel or keg headed up in the manner that his hogsheads were, would be deservedly blown up; why then should the planter who cheats on a large scale be screened?

A GROCER.

P. S. The papers which published the first article, will insert this.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ALDERNEY CATTLE.

Account of the sales of some in this city.

We took occasion in a late number of the Farmer to make some remarks, founded on personal observation, on the Alderney breed of Cattle—noticing most especially, the extraordinary richness of their milk. Since then, curiosity has led us to obtain, through the politeness of Mr. Creighton, (to whom the public is much indebted for their importation)—the following account of the prices at which they sold at public auction in this city.

Editor American Farmer.

A cow with broken horns, 3 years old,	\$140 to R. Cato.
A red cow, 2 years old,	\$200 to Isaac McKinn.
A cream white cow, 3 years old,	\$215 to Hy. Thompson.
A cow with a star on her forehead,	\$155 to C. Ridgely of H.
A large bull 3 years old,	\$275 to Hy. Thompson.
A large bull half a year old,	\$230 to Geo. Howard.

The above cattle I bought in the Islands of Guernsey and Alderney, and was assisted in the selection of them by colonel M'Crea, of the Royal Invalids in the former island; and by the governour (colonel Le Messurier) of the latter. They are of the pure Alderney breed. The bull which Mr. Henry Thomson purchased, obtained two prizes from the Agricultural Society of those Islands; and was esteemed one of the finest animals that had been raised for many years. I bought them without any desire of making money by them; and they were offered to several gentlemen here before they arrived at cost and charges: they were finally sold at auction for much less than I paid for them.

JAMES CREIGHTON.

Baltimore, 3d June, 1820.

VALUABLE BREED OF CATTLE.

The attention of Farmers being again called to the bull imported by Stephen Williams, Esq. of Northborough, we have thought it might gratify them to learn the high estimation in which cattle of the same breed are held in England.—About two years since, the stock of a celebrated Agriculturist of that country, consisting of cattle of this breed, was sold at publick auction:—One two year old cow, sold for \$1,544; one four year old cow, for \$1,400; one five year old cow, for \$1,726; one one year old bull calf, for \$1,426; one four year old bull, for \$2,898. And it appears by the catalogue with the prices affixed, that 34 cows sold for \$19,324; 17 heifers for \$6,006; 6 bulls for \$6,267; and 4 bull calves for \$3,327—making

Massachusetts Spy.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

GAPES OF CHICKENS.

An old Story and a new Invention.

In former days the illegitimate practice of medicine extended not only to quacks, but to mountebanks and conjurors; as may be proved by examining *Doctor Tissot's Advice to the People*. The world has nearly got rid of the two latter pests, whilst the oldest root of iniquity still adheres to the soil. The legislature of the state of Maryland, has laid the axe to the root of this tree also, and it must soon fall with its fellows in deception. The mountebanks confined themselves to antidotes against worms and vermin, with some exterior applications;—and thus playing, as it were on the outside, were not a dangerous set;—moreover, they joined some diversion, and often made the company laugh whilst they took their money—a sure criterion to distinguish them from their brethren the quacks, who too often wrenched the money from hands clasped in misery. One of those mountebanks (as the story goes) after tumbling on the stage and drawing together a numerous company, offered them some powders as a sure antidote against flees, which were readily bought by sportsmen of the chase as also by some plain countrymen, who are always seduced to buy what they see others bidding for. But after the sale, it was discovered that there were no directions; which being applied for by one of the company; the Doctor, whose trade it was (in part) to make the people laugh, told them they must squeeze the flee by the nape of the neck, and when he gaped push the powder in with the other hand. A simple countryman taking this in the literal sense, actually made an attempt to administer a powder; and in the attempt squeezed the flee to death. It is added from as good authority, that Hodge in a rage, pursued the Doctor, who had ere this finished his business and decamped, declaring he would have his money returned, or medicine more palatable to the flees. In his journey, however, he met an acquaintance of more intelligence, who advised him to desist from the pursuit; assuring him that he (Hodge) had discovered a far more certain and less expensive plan of destroying flees than the Doctor, and at the same time recommended him to get a patent for his new method.

Now this story apparently so foreign to curing the gapes in chickens, reminds me of the many remedies proposed by old women and learned Doctors, to prevent or cure this disease; when at the same time, it never entered the head of the most learned pathologist, to squeeze the insect to death that caused the disorder. And now I claim a patent without clashing with my friend Hodge, for squeezing to death, between the thumb and fore finger of the right hand, the insect that causes the gapes in young chickens of the galinaceous order.—DIRECTIONS—the chicken's neck must be a little extended with the fingers of the left hand, and the feathers raised, when holding it up to a good light, an opaque spot may often be discerned in the windpipe, which being a soft tube admits of sufficient squeezing to kill the worms without any injury to the chicken. If no spot is to be seen, the whole length of the pipe may be gently squeezed. It will happen about once in ten cases, that the worms are too near the lungs to be pressed—in that case, no good can be done; moreover it must be done early in the disease, while the chicken is in good plight: for as these worms kill by mechanical obstruction rather than by irritation, it is evident that when dead, they will form an equal obstruction, till they dissolve and come out; which takes two days at least. If the chicken is suffered to have the disease till within two days of the time of dying, the operation is punishment without cure, therefore lose no time! No person who has lost a chicken need be long at a loss to know the cause of the disease. They will readily find the worms about midway in the windpipe. But there our knowledge ends—we know not how they got there, nor from whence they came, nor their origin. There are generally from three to five worms entwined in the pipe, each about as thick as an Oznaburgh needle, from $\frac{3}{4}$ ths to $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch long, of a light blood red colour, variegated with large blood vessels of a very dark red running over the whole body—each worm has two necks and as many mouths formed for sucking. It is remarkable that those are not regularly forked, but formed as a limb from a trunk, so that it would appear as if a spiracula, or breathing hole had been elongated to form one of these necks and mouths. Upon separating the worms and irritating them, they seem disposed to move by drawing up the extreme end in contact with their straight head, and elevating the body into a bow, at the same time push forward their heads—just as the green worms do, that spin their web about the grass and box in gardens; and which are so delicious to the young wrens. There are certainly no larvæ common with us, of this singular construction of plurality of necks and heads, nor are there any worms like the tape worm without the animal body (excopore.) There is, therefore, good reason to suspect that these changes have been effected by the relation of their new situations; and if so, these chicken worms may be the larvæ of some very common insect, probably of the moth fly that we call millers, which young chickens are continually hunting down. The ova of this insect seem to be furnished with a glue, that will fasten them to any thing for hatching. The chicken's lungs being braced to the ribs, (see Bell's anato-

my) they cannot cough or get rid of small eggs that are drawn into the windpipe, where they hatch—nor of the carcase immediately when the worms are destroyed.

All this family of birds, (Gallinaceous) though they frequent grassy and wet grounds for hunting, yet seem to be incapable of living in them, without having an opportunity of dusting themselves frequently, and returning to dry ground—and, therefore, we often meet partridges and other game of this order wallowing in the dust of the roads. Some farmers on this account make it a rule to break up their chicken ground once in a while, and where it can be done, it is no doubt very acceptable to the chickens. It is a fact, that 50 yards will often divide a healthy from an unhealthy yard. These remarks may be of some use to a naturalist as well as to a farmer, and I hope some one of the former will not think it beneath him, to let us know the origin of the worms, for which I will promise him a privilege of squeezing a few to death without buying my patent privilege. PATENTEE.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

GRAFTING THE ENGLISH ON THE INDIAN WALNUT.

To the Editor.—Did not one of your correspondents say that the English walnut would not take when grafted on the stock of the country, or black walnut? If any gentleman will call at Mr. Wrightson's in Talbot county, about six miles from Haddaway's ferry, he will find in Mr. Wrightson's garden a thriving tree, grafted about eleven years since, and which has been bearing several years. The stock was about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch through when the operation was performed: was cut off horizontally 9 or 10 inches above ground and crowned with a graft of the English walnut—I have never seen the nut, but have been informed by Mr. Wrightson that they are half as large again as the common English walnut.

RUSTICUS.

[We embrace this opportunity to inform the author of the above, that the translation from a Prussian work of a method for reviving old and decayed fruit trees, though valuable if well understood, has been so imperfectly rendered in English as to be incomprehensible. If Rusticus will give us his understanding of the article, in his own language, it will be very acceptable.

Edit. Am. Far.

FROM THE PLOUGH BOY.

Mr. SOUTHWICK,—I have frequently remarked, in the newspapers, very lamentable accounts of—barns being destroyed by fire—and a number of fine horses being burned to death—after every possible exertion to get them out of the stables.

On two occasions I have known several valuable horses saved under such circumstances, by simply covering their eyes with a bag, a man's coat, or a new pocket handkerchief—any thing that will prevent their seeing the fire; the moment this was done, a child might lead them thus blinded out of all danger, when ten stout men had laboured in vain to drag them out, while their eyes were open. I am almost certain this simple expedient will be found an effectual and easy means of removing horses and cattle, in cases of fire.

EXPERIENCE.

Permanent Ink for Marking Linen.

Take of Lunar caustic (now called argentum intratum) one drachm: weak solution or tincture

of Galls, two drachms. The cloth must be first wetted with the following liquid, viz:—Salt of Tartar, one ounce, water one ounce and a half; and must be perfectly dry before any attempt is made to write upon it.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON PHTHISIS PULMONALIS, OR Consumption of the Lungs.

By Dr. Ely S. Davis, of Abbeville, (S. C.)

There are but few diseases more fatal to the human family, and none perhaps with the same protracted influence, produce a greater deterioration of the constitution, than Pulmonary Consumption.

The vitality of the parts on which it spends its force its hereditary predisposition, the susceptibility of the lungs to inflammation, all tend to multiply its victims. It is a disease to which every class of persons are more or less subject, but most commonly it selects for its destruction, those between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five; thus attacking the most valuable part of our population.

In the cities north and east of the Potomac, more persons die during the winter months of this, than any other disease. As an evidence of this fact, I would advert to the bills of mortality with which those cities furnish us. If then, this is a disease so fatal, and in its attack so insidious, is it not high time to repel its incursions? and is it not astonishing that our more learned brethren, have not devoted more of their time to its consideration? There is no disease of equal frequency and mortality of which less is said by medical writers. Is it because its appearance among us is so common that we evince such criminal negligence of its ravages?

The very circumstance which familiarizes us with impending danger, should, instead of rendering us inert, prompt to the most vigilant exertions to guard against its fatal recurrence. We are under a political as well as moral injunction, to preserve as far as possible the physical force of our country, independent of the claim which the whole human race have upon us.

Like the people of Portici, we repose in a security as false as our fate is inevitable. They no more than we, should forget the melancholy destruction of Pompeia. Yet we are informed that this event did not seem to have added in the least to their stock of prudence. This degree of temerity can only be equalled by those who daily witness a disease, the prevalence of which consigns so many of our fellow creatures to their "dark and narrow home," and who carelessly fold their arms and await the approaching storm without a single exertion to put the ship in a position to ride the pending tempest.

My design in this memoir is to give a faithful and unsophisticated history of the pulmonary consumption, without embarking in the least into visionary theory. In doing this I shall commence *de novo*, and review the opinions of such medical writers, whose authority on most questions has been deemed good. To go farther back than Sydenham, would perhaps be useless, as those who preceded him must have had but an incorrect idea of the disease. Hippocrates although emphatically and justly styled the father of medicine, could have known but little of the true seat of this disorder, when he imagined the heart and lungs received a part of our drink, and that the liver was the root of the veins and the fountain of the blood. This however, was consonant with the philosophy of that day; and it may be that the doctrines which we hold as irrefragable now, will some hundred years hence be rendered by the superior knowledge of the future entirely obsolete. In the poetic effusion with which Doctor Rush concludes one of his lectures.

Sir William Temple with his usual elegance remarks, that in poetry are assembled all the powers of eloquence, of music, and of painting.

"We think our fathers fools so wise we grow,
"Our wiser sons, I hope, will think us so."

I must confess that there is no great display of music, or eloquence; yet it certainly paints in colours as indelible as life itself, the idea which is intended to be conveyed. We find that the system of Boerhaave, governed the practice of medicine in Philadelphia, as late as the year 1766. Diseases were referred to morbid acrimony in the blood, and the practice was regulated accordingly. The aim of the physician was to attenuate, and incrassate the blood, and in order to change its qualities, large quantities of diet drinks were administered—with a view to excite a revulsion of disease from the superior parts of the body, blood was often drawn from the feet. Early in the seventeenth century, the circulation of the blood was defined by the immortal Harvey. This discovery in my opinion, was the desideratum in the treatment of consumption. It was absolutely impossible to treat this disease with any thing like uniform success, without a knowledge of the circulation of the blood.

But since the year to which I allude above, the science of medicine has been irradiated with the most brilliant lights. Men whose names and reputation impart at once authority and dignity to the profession of physic, and whose minds have united a flame of progressive improvement which can only be extinguished with the destruction of literature, could be adduced in confirmation of this fact. Yet diseases are more frequent more diversified, and more violent now, than when Celsus flourished, or when Galen with his pecipitate philosophy reigned. Are we then to infer from this, that the progression of medical science augments instead of diminishes the catalogue of diseases? This would indeed be a mournful reflection.

Let us then inquire whence this seeming paradox arises? In times of old when an industrious, rural life was preferred to the facetious science of the voluptuary, when an active vocation was preferred to inglorious ease, when libertinism and quaffing of spirituous liquors were but little known, diseases were as simple in their commencement, continuance, and termination as men were plain, frugal and temperate in their mode of living.

In short should we not look to the various luxuries with which the world has become inundated, for the origin of all the aggravated aspects, and diversified types which diseases assume. It is my serious opinion, that the introduction of ardent spirits, has been the cause of more destruction to the human family, than all the wars and pestilence with which mankind has been visited.

Intemperance is a fruitful source of consumption of the lungs, of which I shall speak more fully hereafter.

(To be Continued)

FROM BORDLEY'S HUSBANDRY.

OF POINTING ROOFS OF HOUSES.

The difficulty of preventing driving rains from entering where the shingling of houses and chimneys join, or between houses or one part of a roof with another has been sorely experienced, and complained of without finding the means of relief. Many substances, and modes of curing the causes of complaint, have been tried without effect. Bricklayer's mortar alone, mortar mixed with blacksmith's cinders—with brickdust—with plaster of Paris—plasterer's common plaster without as well as with hair, all to no purpose; the very first rain that fell on the work, swelling the shingles and pressing them close to the brick work, uniformly cracked and generally forced out some part of the opposing substance, called pointing; and thus left openings for every future rain to enter,

and the frosts of the succeeding winters completed the destruction.

The desire formed by my next door neighbour, in pointing, was to find out an elastic substance that when pressed on by a swelling of the shingles, should give away, and when the shingles became dry again, should by its own elasticity return to its former close state. It also was necessary that such substance should be able to resist the injurious effect of driving rains in not easily giving way or decaying.

The tow of hemp my neighbour found to have all the requisite elasticity; and when defended by a coat of glazier's putty was proof against the weather for seven years that it had then been tried by him, although it was very imperfectly pointed with the tow and putty; so that it required to be renewed; he therefore directed it to be better done; thus, the joint or junction between the shingles and brick work was well filled with tow forced in by a brick-layer's trowel, and kept down half an inch below the upper surface of the shingles; then putty was pressed down with the trowel on the tow; and lastly, scraped off smooth, even with the shingles,—so that no part remained on the top of the shingles, but even with them. Several rains have happened since, yet his house proves perfectly tight; without the least crack in the pointing, or deviation of the stuffing from the state in which it was placed. The putty when partially dried, is yet sufficiently tough to admit of being pressed by the wet, swoln shingles, without cracking; and he took some putty, used on the former trial out of a joint or bend when it had been there above a year, which still retained its toughness, and had not even then acquired the stone-like hardness that it shews on old glazed window sashes.

The pointing should be done in dry, settled weather, that the putty may acquire some degree of hardness in a hot sun, four or five days, lest a rain by occasioning the shingles to swell should press with too much force on the putty. Soaking the tow in oil would be an improvement, he thinks, if it did not deprive the tow of its elasticity—because then if any accident occasioned the putty to scale off or crack, the tow filled with oil would be indestructible by the weather, and would keep the house always tight.

FROM THE AMERICAN WATCHMAN.

TO FARMERS.

In the winter of 1818-19, a gentleman in this city made the following experiment. He placed a turkey in an enclosure about four or five feet long, two feet wide, and three or four feet high. He excluded as much light as he could without preventing a circulation of air, and fed the turkey with soft brick broken into pieces, with charcoal also broken, and with six grains of corn per day. Fresh water was daily supplied. The box or coop in which the turkey was placed he always locked up with his own hands, and is perfectly confident that nobody interfered with the experiment.

At the end of one month he invited a number of his neighbours, among others two physicians. The turkey, now very large and heavy, was killed and opened by the physicians, and

was found to be filled up full with fat. The gizzard and entrails were dissected, and nothing was found but a residuum of charcoal and brick. To conclude the examination satisfactorily, the turkey was eaten, and found to be very good.

Last winter he again repeated the experiment with the same success.

The circumstance by which he was induced to make the experiment is a very curious one. One of his neighbours informed him, that being driven from the city by the fever of 1793, his family recollect that some fowls that had lived in a kind of loft over his workshop, had been forgotten in the hurry of their removal, and would certainly be starved. They were absent six or eight weeks, and on the retiring of the pestilence returned. To their great astonishment, the fowls were not only alive, but very fat, although there was nothing but charcoal and shavings that they could have eaten, and some water that had been left in the trough of a grindstone had supplied them with drink.

C. R.

N. B. The Editors of the National Recorder say this comes from known and respectable authority.

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

MUSHROOM.

This has been the favourite vegetable of epicures from the earliest ages. Scarcely a season has passed away during "the dark backward abyss of time," without recording the history of some melancholy death, occasioned by indulging in this unwholesome article.

Among the celebrated personages who have died in consequence of eating mushrooms, are the wife and children of Euripides—the Emperor Claudius—Pope Clement the sixth—Charles the sixth, and the widow of the Czar Alexis. These accidents will continue to occur, unless the proper authorities place some restraint on those who heedlessly gather these vegetables, and offer them for sale in our markets.

Gassicourt states that "the Parisian Prefect of Police being justly alarmed, by the frequent accidents occasioned by eating mushrooms, has commissioned a botanist to inspect all those that are brought to the city for sale. He has also ordered the council of health, attached to his administration, to digest, and publish instructions, by which persons thus poisoned may be promptly and efficaciously relieved."

The wisdom of such regulations must be obvious, when it is known that in this great family of plants, we have a variety of nearly five hundred: and the esculent are so readily compounded with those that are deleterious, that none but men of science can make the proper discrimination.

As the best however, are indigestible, it would be prudent to banish them altogether from our tables.

If our *Bons Vivans* cannot be persuaded to abandon their favourite dish, they ought, at least, to take such precautions as have been used in other countries, to prevent unhappy consequences. An eminent physician of Padua is of opin-

ion, that the poisonous qualities of the fungi (Mushroom) are destroyed by maceration in vinegar. He has therefore recommended that they should never be eaten except in a pickled state. The Italians are so well convinced of the corrective property of acids, that they always eat this vegetable with a white sauce, which is called Moutarda Bianca, and of which lemon juice forms the principal ingredient.

HUMANITAS.

PATENT GRIDIRON.

Mr. Thomas Massey of New London, has invented a gridiron, which combines economy with excellence and neatness in cooking. The great advantage it has over the common gridiron now in use is, that all the juices of the meats, (commonly called gravy) cooked upon it, instead of falling into the fire, are received in hollow bars and from them conducted into a tin pan. All the greasy smoke, therefore, which imparts a bad flavour to the meat, is wholly avoided. Attached to the hinder bar is a tin reflector, which prevents much of the heat from escaping; and thereby facilitates the cooking. The pan and reflector can both be removed from the gridiron at pleasure. All who have used them do not hesitate to bear testimony in their favour. They can be seen at Hyde and Bantes' store, 93 Maiden-lane.

[*New York paper.*

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JUNE, 23, 1820.

¶ A liberal intercourse among men of generous hearts and superior minds of different countries, is in no respect more happily exemplified than in the cases of Arthur Young, Sir John Sinclair, Mr. Coke, of English Norfolk, and Lord Erskine, with regard to United States of America. The first of these distinguished theorists, and practicians in agriculture has been recently taken from a country—a quarter of the globe—a world to which his acute and active mind, and well directed energy, have done incalculable service. His tour through France and into Upper Italy, his Lincoln survey and report, and in general, his various labours in the field and the literature of agriculture, have been peculiarly beneficial to us. In all his intercourse with respectable individuals of our country in letters, conversations and more formal conferences our landed and travelling citizens have met a liberal friend.

The North British Baronet, Sir John Sinclair, has made us rejoice in America, that we are masters of the language in which he delivered to the world his inestimable and immense collections of agricultural literature. Had his been a foreign tongue, we should not have expected to have seen a translation of them, and the vast body of simple & precious truths—truths in fact and truths in reason—with which his extensive works are filled, would have remained to the many in America, unknown secrets. He has taught us, by the happiest examples and the most effectual means, how to examine and how to make a perfect exposition of the agriculture of a country, from the scale of a kingdom and a province down to a county, a hundred, a tything or a township. He has drawn, by innumerable traits so perfect a landed picture of Great Britain, that no traveller of any nation, however familiar with the English tongue, can ever hope to obtain such a knowledge of the kingdom by his own senses. He has a title also to our gratitude from the generous views he has frequently taken of the colossal stature and natural capacities of our landed interest.

Mr. Coke, whom nature made an English gentleman farmer of the highest order, and who is understood with a mixture of native manliness and sense, to have declined the honours of a peerage, has extended to our country and our compatriots at home and abroad, many evidences of respect, regard, esteem and friendship, in that noble round of rural intelligence, activity and hospitality, which in a country distinguished for its union of intellect, energy and culture, have pre-eminently marked his uncommon character.

The extraordinary mind of Lord Chancellor Erskine, as full of discrimination as of ardour, has constantly recognized our country with decided and often enthusiastic warmth, whenever he has believed us right, and the reports and correspondence of our travelling countrymen have borne strong and numerous testimonies in favour of his language, opinions and deportment towards them and our country. He has turned his mind and fortune in latter years to the utmost use of the capacities and soil of Great Britain, where land, and particularly good land, has become a real monopoly, and art and science has been sedulously applied to cure the inferiorities of soil and climate. We shall conclude this article with an extract from Lord Erskine's speech at one of the annual sheepshearings held for several days at Holkham, the residence of Thomas William Coke, Esq; where the most powerful practical and theoretical farmers of the United Kingdom with many foreign guests, constantly assemble. Lord Erskine said pleasantly that "he had studied Coke at Westminister, and that he was then studying Coke at Holkham: that the perfection of the culture of the latter was such, that he did know, by the eye, the great bread corn, wheat, as produced on Mr. Coke's estate! He descended upon the pursuit of agriculture as a most liberal profession, in which in a beautiful order and regularity, the finger of Heaven points to certain conclusions; where the fruits of our skill and labour rise to give testimony and where the very earth is eloquent and speaks nothing but the truth. If, he continued, we only consider the subject of manure, we shall perceive one of the most striking beauties and benefits of the divine ordination, and of that wisdom, with which we are blessed, in a thousand ways, without knowing it. This very substance, the refuse of every being, had it been useless must have accumulated in heaps, intollerably noisome and perpetually pestilential; but by the blessing of providence, it is every man's interest to remove those otherwise increasing mountains of filth, and by decomposition in various ways, in a great measure concealed from us, it gives increase to our fields, and adds to the means of industry, and the reward of the husbandman."

Present Prices of Country Produce in this Market.

Actual sales of Wheat—WHITE, 95 cts.—RED, 90 to 92 cts.—CORN, 44 to 45 cts.—RYE, 52 to 55 cts.—OATS, 33 to 35 cts.—HAY, per ton \$18—STRAW, do. \$11 to \$12—FLOUR, from the wagons, \$4 50—WHISKEY, from do. 31 to 32 cts.—BUTTER, pr. lb. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts.—EGGS, per doz. 15 cts.—MUTTON, per quarter, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts.—veal, per lb. 6 to 8 cts.—BEEF, prime pieces, 8 to 10 cts.—LIVE CATTLE, \$6 to \$7—POTATOES, per bushel old crop, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts.—New do. \$1 75—CON FISH, per quintal, retail \$3 to \$3 50—TAN, scarce, \$2—TURPENTINE, soft, \$2 to \$2 25—ROSIN, \$2—PITCH, \$2 50—SHAD, No. 1, untrimmed \$6, trimmed \$6—HERRINGS, No. 1, \$2 75—BACON, hog round, 8 to 9 cts.—LARD, in kegs, 11 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts.—COTTON, Upland, 17 to 18 cts.—BLACK-EYE PEAS, 65 cts.—SHINGLES best Deep Creep, \$8 50—DO. Small, \$4 73 to \$5—FLOORING PLANK, 5-4, \$26—Maryland TOBACCO, the only sale we have heard of since last report, is 2 hds. Calvert county—one second quality, at \$4, and one good quality, at \$11 75—Virginia TOBACCO,—a few hds. Richmond, inferior quality, sold the present week for \$6 50 & \$7 50.

Agricultural Repository.

J. P. CASEY,
SEEDSMAN, &c.

No. 2, HANOVER STREET, NEXT TO BARNUM'S.
Begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he is appointed Agent to Harrison & Torrey, of New York, for the sale of the following

Agricultural Implements.

PLOUGHS

Lord Somerville's patent double Furrowed Plough	\$45
Do. do. single	do.
Wilkie's iron Plough, (two horse)	40
Do. of wood do.	25
Small's Scotch do.	25
Hilt's Patent, with paring shares	35
Freeborn's (Wood Patent)	18
No. 3, (heavy) \$16: do. locked coulters and wrought share	17
No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, (heavy two horse) \$15: do. do.	17
No. 2, common do.	15
No. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, (light) do.	14
Cast shares, 55 cents each	do.
No. 0, (one horse) \$12 50 without cutter	do.
Seed 11 do.	do.
Corn 8 do.	do.
Cast Shares for the above, 50 cents each	do.
Peacock's Patent from \$17 to 12 50	do.
Paring Ploughs, made to order	do.
Mole, or under draining Ploughs, the pair with wheels	do.

HORSE-HOES AND CULTIVATORS.

The Patent Expanding Horse-Hoe, for corn, potatoes, &c.	\$20
Do. with Cultivators	30
The Cultivator and earthing up	7 and 8
The Expanding Cultivator and Harrow for corn, potatoes, &c.	do.
With cast iron shares	1
Extra shares, 60 feet each	do.
Scarifiers and scufflers made to order.	do.

CHAFF CUTTERS.

Rowntree's to cut different lengths	\$100
Hill's three knives	30

Passmore's four knives	70
Bishop's Patent two knives	15 and 20

Common do.	from 30 to 7
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Cast Steel Straw and Hay Knives.	do.
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DRILL MACHINES.

To drill any given number of rows, at any distance, made to order, for wheat, corn, barley, &c. &c.	do.
Turnip Drill, (common)	\$10
Hand Drill for corn, wheat, turnips, &c.	20
Do. do. with one wheel	12

Do. do. Hill's, (with cups)	12 50
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Bennett's Broad Cast Drill, sows twelve feet in width, for grain, grass-seeds or turnips	\$30
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TURNIP SLICERS.

With any number of knives, to order	do.
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Do. with one knife	do.
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CORN SHELLERS.

Phinney's Patent, cast iron frame, largest size most approved	do.
Do. do. smaller size do. do.	do.

Do. do. in wooden frames	20 and 25
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Cylinder do.	do.
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FANNING MILLS.

On the most approved constructions from	60 to 25
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FLAX MACHINES.

Lee's (English) to dress the flax without rotting	870
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Hill & Bundy's ditto made to order.	do.
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Scotch Carts, iron axle-trees, and iron or wood.	do.
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en naves, made to order	do.
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Iron axle-trees, for do.	do.
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THRESHING MACHINES.

English and Scotch Threshing Machines for any power, fixed or portable, furnished to order	do.
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A four horse portable Machine, with horse power	8500
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HARROWS.

The expanding and Hinge Harrows, pair	\$25
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Common do. do. from 15 to 10 50	
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POST AUGERS.

Hoxie's Patent for boring post-holes	from 20 to 9 inches
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20 inch	\$6
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15 inch	5
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12 inch	5
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9 inch	4
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ROLLERS.

Cast iron and wooden Roller	
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WEIGHING MACHINE.

To weigh cattle, &c. alive	\$150
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Beard's do. in cast iron frame, on wheels, for flour, butter, &c. with weights to 1500 weight	210
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FLEXIBLE TUBES.

To relieve cattle when hoven or choked, with gag for oxen and sheep, the pair	\$5
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CHURNs.

Pendulum Churn to make butter in a given time	
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Burder's Box Churns	from 12 50 to 9
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WHEEL BARROWS.

With wooden and cast iron wheels, from	\$6 to 9
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CASTINGS.

Orders for Castings received and attended to.	
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On hand, Sash Weights, Window Frames, Plough Castings, and Castings for Machinery, &c.	
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Drag Rakes for gleaning	\$6
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Grass and Cradle Scythes

Scythe Snathes and Cradles	
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Scythe Stones

In addition to the above, CASEY has received per	
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the Franklin, from Liverpool, the following articles, which will be sold on pleasing terms for ready money, only.	
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MINERS' SHOVELS

3 and 4 pronged Forks, with and without handles	
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WEEDING FORKS

Edgeing Hooks	
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GRASS HOOKS

Turnip Scoops and Hoes	
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Patent Hoes from 3 to 23 inches	
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DUTCH HOES

do. do. do.	do. do.
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PLANTERS' HOES

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